

Volunteer Management in Times of Disaster

Exploring the basics of the volunteer agreement.

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The Volunteer Agreement

- It is the responsibility of the volunteer to adhere to values, mission, and scope of the agency it is serving
- It is the agency's responsibility to train, equip, and provide meaningful opportunities for volunteers to serve
- RECIPROCITY



What does this boil down to?



Volunteers in Disaster

- Traditionally volunteers have been engaged in emergency management through:
 - Preparedness training
 - Response activation shifting into immediate recovery efforts



Response

- Challenges
 - Stress
 - Complexity
 - Logistics
 - Spontaneous volunteers
 - Training
- The current response structure is a challenge to the basic volunteer agreement



The Road Forward

- Federally agencies like FEMA can learn a lot from our NGO partners
- FEMA has developed a guide to Whole Community Emergency Management
- Hurricane Sandy was the first opportunity to test new FEMA Corps volunteers



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FEMA Corps (March 2012)

Partnership between the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) to establish a FEMA-devoted unit of 1,600 service corps members within AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCCC) solely devoted to disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.



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The Road Forward

- Volunteer Agencies are being relied on more and more to support preparedness and response efforts across the whole community
- New opportunities in disaster for volunteers
 - Long-term recovery



“We need to move away from the mindset that Federal and State governments are always in the lead, and build upon the strengths of our local communities and, more importantly, our citizens.

**We must treat individuals and communities
as key assets rather than liabilities.”**

W. Craig Fugate
FEMA Administrator

“E Pluribus Unum” - Out of many, one

“ Difficulty is the excuse history never accepts.”

Edward R. Murrow



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Resources

- www.citizencorps.gov
- <http://www.slideshare.net/VolunteerHoward/disaster-volunteer-management-trends-opportunities>
- www.fema.gov/fema-corps

